

FARM AND FIRE-SIDE.

Called by the Angels.

The farmer's wife is sitting alone in the dusk of a winter day. While over the hills the snows fall, And over the meadows gray, And the stars of many a lonely hour Shed light from her lonely way.

Her eyes have wandered through mist of tears To the churchyard under the hill, Where the snow, like the wings of a brooding dove, Lies soft and pure and still, And where her treasure, so long hid, Lies hid at the Master's will.

And ah! how oft she goes to pray, She starts, as for a living ear, And almost caught on the passing breeze, Voices as sweet and clear, "Thou angel, come, thy work is done," "It is weary waiting here."

The farmer from his work is late, In the dusk of winter's day, And he sits him down by the faithful wife, And she parts his locks to pray, And looks in his face with a loving smile That years never steal away.

And back again to her eyes come tears, To the hill where she should go, She thinks, "My treasure are lying there, But he has not taken all, 'Twas one is waiting beside me still, Till the angel's voice shall call."

And the weeks are slow, and the days too, In the dusk of a winter's day, Will watch the shadows come and go, And the meadows cold and gray, For they, at the Master's will, are away, Where their treasure would lay.

—Hester's Weekly.

Sheep Raising in New Mexico.

Sheep raising seems destined to be the great productive industry of the territory. An immense area of pastoral lands, covered with abundant and nutritious grasses, await occupation. The grama and mesquit grasses are especially valuable as a natural process of curing in the dry season renders them available for winter feeding. Stocks of all kinds thrive upon this feed, and cattle become almost as fat as stall-fed. Merino sheep were introduced from Spain three hundred and thirty-six years ago, and have grown, with very little effort at improvement. Yet, although they have degenerated in size and quality of fleece, their wool is excellent. Judicious crossbreeds have been made, with encouraging results. The increase of lambs amounts to about one hundred per cent. of the number of ewes—and a flock of 5,000 ewes and one hundred rams may be expected in one year to increase to 10,000, of which 7,000 will be ewes, and 2,000 rams and wethers, the increase being nearly equally divided between the sexes. Two-wool clips from 5,000 sheep, at one and one-half pounds per head, would amount to 7,500 pounds, which, at twenty-two cents a pound, brings \$1,650 for the wool clip of the first year alone. The expense of keeping is estimated at \$765, leaving \$915 for investment in breeding rams. The second year, then, will open with 7,500 ewes and 2,500 rams. If the former again double, there are 15,000 sheep at the end of the second year, of which 11,250 will be ewes and 3,750 rams and wethers. Of these, 10,125 will shear about three pounds per head, or 30,375 pounds, of improved quality, which, at twenty-eight cents per pound, brings \$8,526. At this point 2,500 yearlings may be sold for enough to purchase 1,500 ewes and one hundred rams. At the beginning of the third year this will give 12,850 ewes and 4,000 rams and wethers—16,850 sheep in all.

By converting wethers into valuable rams and ewes, the process may be continued, if judicious regard be had to all the circumstances. Another element of profit is found in the fact that the fleece improves in price as it increases in weight. These figures are said to be indications of what has been successfully achieved in New Mexico.—Report Department of Agriculture.

When to Prune Fruit Trees.

Long experience shows that when it is desirable to produce a free growth of shoots and leaves, pruning should be done when the trees are dormant, as in the winter season, or early in the spring, before the sap begins to flow. When fruit trees appear to grow too rapidly, and to produce too much wood, which may be pruned moderately in the summer season, cutting away a portion of the wood by degrees; but a shoot growing in an improper place may be cut away at any time. An experiment made by pruning apple trees every month in the year, for two seasons, showed that the wounds of the branches cut in February and March at the end of five years, when all had healed over, were found to be the best decayed under the head surface. When trees are pruned in winter, or I may say at any time, it is best to cover the wounds with a hot mixture of tar and pulverized brick dust, or fine sand. A solution of shellac in alcohol, as thick as can easily be applied with a brush, is considered by many as the best preparation that can be applied.

During the mild days of winter, orchards may be pruned—while little else can be done; but good judgment should be exercised in regard to selecting the branches to be cut away. It is ruinous to an orchard to cut and slash away too much of the old wood. All that should be done is to give the trees a good shape, and only cut away such limbs as are plainly in excess of the natural requirements of the tree, to conform to the extent of its roots. If we take away too much of the top of a tree, it is like taking blood from a man—the more that is taken, the less vitality remains in him; therefore in pruning, only the few unsightly branches, and those improperly situated, should be cut away.—Rural New Yorker.

Live on Pottery.

There is a thoroughness in following the prescription copied from an agricultural exchange which strikes us very favorably. Parasites are not so easily exterminated as many believe, and all should try to make thorough work, whether cleaning a poultry-house, killing the germs of chills and fever, or those of autumn and diphtheria.

I will tell him how at one time I got rid of lice in my poultry-house and on my poultry pretty effectually, but I had to keep at them, and I thought at one time that I should never be able to succeed. I did not despair, however, but kept at it and was finally successful.

First take every fowl and rub well into its feathers a quantity of powdered sulphur, and then, having previously mixed a quantity of kerosene and carbolic acid (in proportion of a quart of kerosene to a gallon of carbolic acid), thickened with sulphur to about the thickness of flour paste, give each fowl a dabbing under the wings, on top of the head and around the vent. But then out of the fowl house as fast as they are treated. Secondly, take a quantity of crude sulphur and resin and place in an old kettle and thoroughly fumigate the house. Thirdly, take a quantity of lime (that you think is sufficient to go over the space) and shake in hot water and to a common water pail nearly full of the wash add a half-pint of kerosene and about a gallon of carbolic acid, and then thoroughly wash the inside of the house with a white wash brush, or a sponge, being sure to get it

well into the cracks and crevices and on the roosts. Make new nests and sprinkle powdered sulphur through the straw or whatever material may be used to make the nests, and otherwise cleanse the house as it may need, and then return the poultry after it is dry.

Repeat the dose if it is needed; or any part of it that you think advisable. Prepare for the fowl a dust bath of sifted coal or leached wood ashes, and to a bushel of the ashes add one quart of sulphur. If this is followed up, I do not think that you will be troubled with parasites any longer.

Hog Cholera.

We do not pretend that the cholera, when once firmly seated can be cured, but we unhesitatingly affirm that if prompt measures are taken when the disease first appears in the herd, a large majority of the hogs may be saved. We say, hogs, knowing that young pigs, when taken sick from any cause, can only be saved by a miracle. As soon as the disease shows itself in the herd, attention to the following particulars is imperative.

First—Remove the sick animals from the pen to comfortable quarters, and provide them with fresh bedding and ample protection from the weather.

Second—Avoid feeding corn in any form. Feed the sick animal's milk exclusively, or milk mixed with a little muddings, and the entire herd with shorts, muddings, ground oats or rye. If the food can be cooked so much the better.

Third—Let the entire herd have ready access to pure water, and keep constantly in the yard a pile of charcoal and ashes.

Fourth—Keep in mind constantly this general truth: the hog is a cleanly brute which enjoys and pays for clean quarters, and especially his nature, no less than man's, demands a proper supply of nitrogenous foods.

Only a week ago we heard a careful farmer and well-known Berkshire breeder assert that, after much experience, he had no longer any dread of the hog cholera, for he could cure it with new milk.—Prof. Shelton.

Raising Calves.

Like everything else pertaining to a farm, raising calves requires judgment and experience. It is best always to leave the calf with the cow several days, until the fever is out of the bag and the milk good for family use, and with proper management the calf can be easily taught to drink milk when four or five days old. It is important that the calf should take its first sustenance from the cow. If a calf is of no value to rear, or if the milk is worth more than the cost of feeding four or five weeks for the butter, it should be killed as soon as the milk becomes good, but if it is to be raised, it should have pure milk for about ten days, when a little skimmed milk may be added to the unskimmed by degrees, till it may be fed entirely on skimmed milk. It has been shown by abundant tests that calves will thrive as well on the poorest butter produced as on the best; consequently, if a farmer has any cows which give poor milk, that should be fed to calves, because it is not the cream that nourishes them so much as other properties of the milk. When four or five weeks old they may be fed on buttermilk.

It is good management to feed calves, in connection with their milk, about a half pound of a little cooked meal. At first, take nearly a tablespoonful of Indian, oat, or barley meal, and cook it in a little water; then mix it with the milk, and increase the quantity of meal as the calves grow older. Flaxseed boiled to a jelly and mixed with milk, when the calves are ten days old, is good for them. It is poor policy to skim calves which are worth raising, as their future development as good cows depends in a great degree on the manner in which they are treated when calves. Let them be fed three times a day at regular hours, and as much as will satisfy them, and in the end their owners will never be losers by so doing. Look at the poor, unsightly animals in the yards of farmers who halt and stagger as they move, and you will realize the value of a calf that is properly raised.

When calves are old enough to begin to eat hay or grass, if confined in a stable or yard, a little fine, sweet hay, or grass, should be placed within their reach. It may be tied with a cord, and suspended where they can nibble at it, and in a few weeks, when about four months old, they may be turned out to pasture, still giving them a little meal and water once a day for a week or two. They should have fresh water in their pasture, which should produce an abundance of good grass, and they will go into winter quarters in fine condition. Then let them be fed on good, fine, sweet hay, with fodder corn (sweet) cut and cured as soon as it begins to tassle, and a little meal of any kind, and when they are two or three years old you will have a calf that you will not be ashamed to have your neighbors see. Even the milk that such cows will give will be much more than if they were poorly fed when calves. There is no use in a farmer expecting to raise fine stock of any kind, unless he attends thoroughly to their wants through all the stages of their growth. If he grows a good crop of corn it must be fed, and the weeds exterminated—no half-way work; and the same rule applies to his live-stock.—Rural New Yorker.

Household Hints.

To KEEP LEMONS.—Lemons can be kept a long time in silver salt perfectly dried. Place the stem end of the lemon downward and leave them three inches apart; keep in a cool place.

AMMONIA CAKE.—One cupful butter, two of sugar, three of flour, one-half pint cream, a piece of ammonia the size of a nutmeg, one pound of flour, three eggs, reserving the white of one. This cake should not be cut for two weeks; it will keep a long time.

WASHING.—For ordinary washing, use a tablespoonful of borax to every five gallons of water, and two ounces of soap; soak the clothes in this over night; give them a thorough boiling without washing. When the clothes are very much soiled, see that the water is made soft with turpentine. In washing flannels, use one tablespoonful of borax to five gallons of water, without soap. It will not shrink them. For starching linen, use one teaspoonful of borax to four pints of boiling starch. For washing and bleaching laces, put one teaspoonful of borax to one pint of boiling water, leave your articles to soak in the solution for twenty-four hours, then wash with a little soap.

OSTENTATIOUS minds must surrender and admit that the wonderful cures of Coughs, Colds and Bronchitis effected by Dr. J. H. McLean's Cough and Lung Healing Cures. This new way, new principle, producing a genuine cure of the affected parts, is the only remedy. Trial Boxes 25c. per mail. Dr. J. H. McLean, 134 Chestnut St., St. Louis.

HORRORS OF THE FLAMES.

The Southern Hotel at St. Louis Wrapped in Flames at the Dead of Night.

The most frightful calamity that has ever befallen St. Louis took place at a very early hour on the 11th, involving the destruction of the Southern hotel by fire, and the loss of a large number of lives. The exact number cannot now be given, but it is feared some FORTY OR FIFTY PERISHED.

either by being burned directly or first smothered by the smoke, and then consumed. From the best information at hand, it seems that the fire caught in the store room in the basement, and was first seen coming through the ground floor just north of the office, and in ten minutes it had ascended the elevators and rotunda, and spread itself over the sixth floor, under the roof. This floor was occupied entirely by the employees of the hotel, the largest part of whom were women. The fire spread rapidly, filling every room and hall with the flames and smoke, and the scene was of the most terrible description. Frantic men, women and children ran through the halls, shrieking in the most heart-rending manner in their wild and desperate efforts to escape. The smoke was so dense in some of the halls that the people were extinguished, and were found lying dead or dying. Some of the men, women and children ran through the flames and smoke, and the scene was of the most terrible description. 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